



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Szimtenings et al.                      Art Unit : 3737  
Serial No. : 10/606,665                      Examiner : Jasani, Ashish S.  
Filed : June 26, 2003                      Conf. No. : 4805  
Title : RAPID MULTISLICE BLACK BLOOD DOUBLE-INVERSION RECOVERY  
TECHNIQUE FOR BLOOD VESSEL IMAGING

**Mail Stop Amendment**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REPLY TO ACTION OF APRIL 5, 2006

The examiner has rejected the independent claim (1) under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pan (US 2003/0069493) combined with Yarnykh (US 2004/0181146). The examiner is urged to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

The invention is directed to a combination of elements that was not obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art – a combination that, in fact, went against the teachings of the prior art. Referring to claim 1, the combination is set out in the following claim language:

administering a series of DIR preparation pulse modules at a repetition interval short enough that at least two DIR preparation pulse modules generally occur within each RR interval;

in the interval between each DIR preparation pulse module, acquiring image data for a plurality of slices.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY FIRST CLASS MAIL

I hereby certify under 37 CFR §1.8(a) that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage on the date indicated below and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

October 5, 2006  
Date of Deposit

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